

strengthening families

THROUGH EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Building Protective Factors
to Strengthen Families

Presented by Carolyn Brinkmann
4C for Children

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What is Strengthening Families?

Developed by the Center for the Study of Social Policy, SF is a strength-based approach built upon the following:

- All families have strengths.
- All families need support.
- Early childhood settings provide opportunity to intervene and support families.
- Protective factors provide **all families** what they need to ensure the strength of their families and wellness of their children.

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Why did CSSP develop the Strengthening Families Framework ?

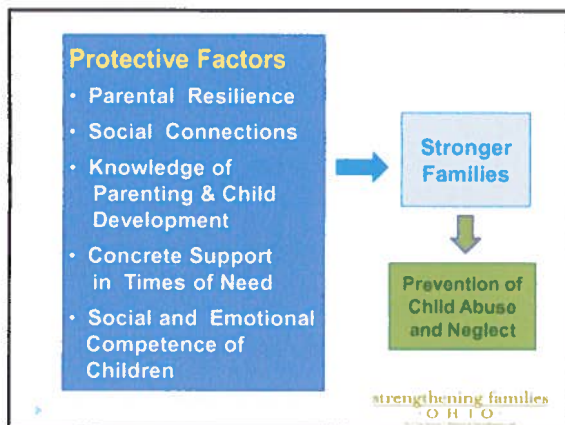
CSSP wanted to develop a child abuse prevention framework that:

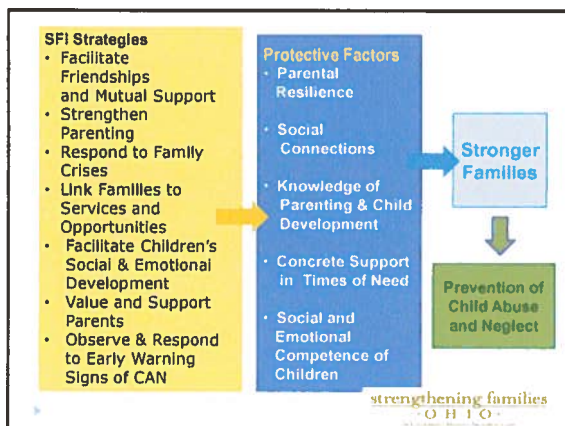
- Was systemic.
- Was national in scope.
- Would reach a large number of very young children.
- Would have impact long before abuse or neglect occurred.

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Ways you promote social-emotional competence

- Teach social and emotional skills -- to children and parents
- Help parents appreciate their children's strengths
- Work with parents, children, and professionals to address challenging behaviors



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Knowledge of parenting and child development



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Ways you enhance parents' knowledge

- Provide "just in time" parent education
- Be a role model -- demonstrate parenting alternatives
- Arrange formal parent education activities
- Partner with parent education organizations
- Share resources



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**“ I now
know why
spending
time with
my child
is so
important
...
to him
and me.”**



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A Child Welfare System Transformation

Social connections



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A Child Welfare System Transformation

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Ways you help parents develop social connections

- Provide informal space for parents to "hang out"
- Blend social and parent education activities
- Organize structured activities that bring parents together, Outreach to fathers
- Reach out to isolated parents



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A Child Welfare System Transformation

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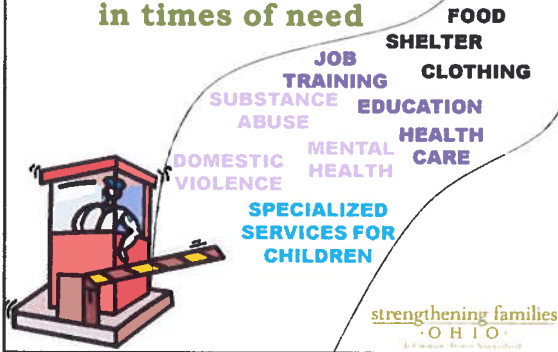
“ Through Parent Cafés I have found support from other parents during a very difficult time in my life.”



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Concrete support in times of need



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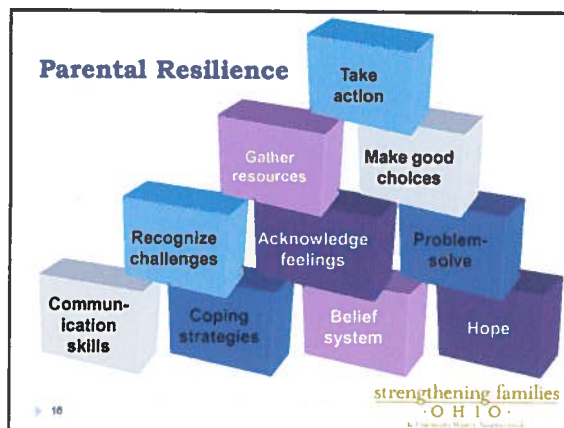
Ways you help families access concrete support

- Distribute community resource guides
- Invite community partners to share information with families and staff
- Connect parents to resources
- Help parents overcome barriers to getting services they need



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How you can build parental resilience

- Show parents:
 - They are valued
 - Help is available
- Provide trusting relationships and extra support for those parents who need it
- Help parents come up with a plan and identify resources or supports



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“I have been able to get the help I needed at the time that I needed it.”



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SFI in Hamilton County strives to ensure the wellness and resiliency of parents and children through building 5 protective factors

PARENTING CAN BE OVERWHELMING
 Get & Give Support
 Call 758-1311

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www.ConnectCommunitySupport.org

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SFI Community Results

- Child Abuse & Neglect substantiations in 45211 decreased by 35%.

PARENTING CAN BE OVERWHELMING
 Dial 2-1-1 or Visit
ConnectCommunitySupport.org

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 Connect. Community Support

- 43% of parents report positive change in behaviors that support the 5 protective factors

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SFI Parent Results

Residents and parents in 45211 report:

- Increased awareness of the issue of child abuse and neglect and parenting resources
- Positive change in behaviors that support the 5 protective factors

Parents at parent Cafes report:

- 99% learned something that would help them as a parent
- 84.5% plan to change how they discipline their children
- 91% planning to talk/listen to their children differently
- 93.5 % learned new ways to handle challenges
- 82% connected with or built a new relationship with another parent.

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Critical Learnings

- ▶ Building and supporting protective factors is appealing.
- ▶ The building of protective and resiliency factors greatly contribute to decreasing incidences of child abuse and neglect.
- ▶ Community wide marketing strategies have proven effective.
- ▶ Family child care providers are more quickly able to integrate SFI strategies into their programs.
- ▶ Early childhood teachers require more support in developing and tend to have more apprehensions about this work.
- ▶ Effectiveness of parent cafés is related to the effectiveness and connectedness of the parent hosts. Parent hosts being from the same community is critical.
- ▶ The voice and input from parents within the community has gleaned tremendous results.

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Tools and Resources

Center for the Study of Social Policy

www.cssp.org

Strengthening Families National Network

www.strengtheningfamilies.net

Ohio Children's Trust Fund

www.ifs.ohio.gov/OCTF

SFI in Cheviot and Westwood

www.connectcommunitysupport.org

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Final Questions and Answers



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